

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9753

INFO DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMEMBASSY BANJUL UNN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 0703

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, SG, PU, MPOL

SUBJ: SENEGALESE MIL MANEUVERS IN CASAMANCE

REF: DAO DAKAR 290815Z

1. DAKAR DAILY LE SOLEIL REPORTS SENEGALESE ARMED FORCES INCLUDING AIR, LAND AND SEA ELEMENTS, ENGAGED IN MIL MANEUVERS IN CASAMANCE FROM JAN 25 TO JAN 31, 75. MANEUVERS TOOK PLACE IN "ZONE 450 KILOMETERS LONG AND 15 KILOMETERS WIDE." CEREMONIES TERMINATING MANEUVERS TOOK PLACE AT VILLAGE OF MANGAROUNGOU SITUATED NEAR VILLAGE OF SAMINE IN CASAMANCE. MIN OF ARMED FORCES AMADOU CLEDOR SALL AND CHIEF OF STAFF OF ARMED FORCES COL IDRISSE FALL FLEW FROM DAKAR TO CASAMANCE TO ATTEND. MANEUVERS WERE FOLLOWED BY PARADE IN ZIGUINCHOR ON FEB1.

2. COMMENT: MANEUVERS OBVIOUSLY TOOK PLACE ALONG GUINEA-BISSAU FRONTIER. TOWN OF SAMINE IS CLOSEST POINT TO G-B BORDER ALONG NEWLY PAVED ROAD FROM ZUGUINCHOR TO KOLDA. PUBLICITY GIVEN MANEUVERS, ATTENDANCE OF MIN AND CHIEF OF STAFF OF ARMED FORCES, AND PARADE IN ZUGUINCHOR CLEARLY DESIGNED SHOW LOCAL POPULACE AND NEIGHBORING G-B THAT GOS INTENDS TO MAINTAIN ITS AUTHORITY IN BORDER AREA.

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